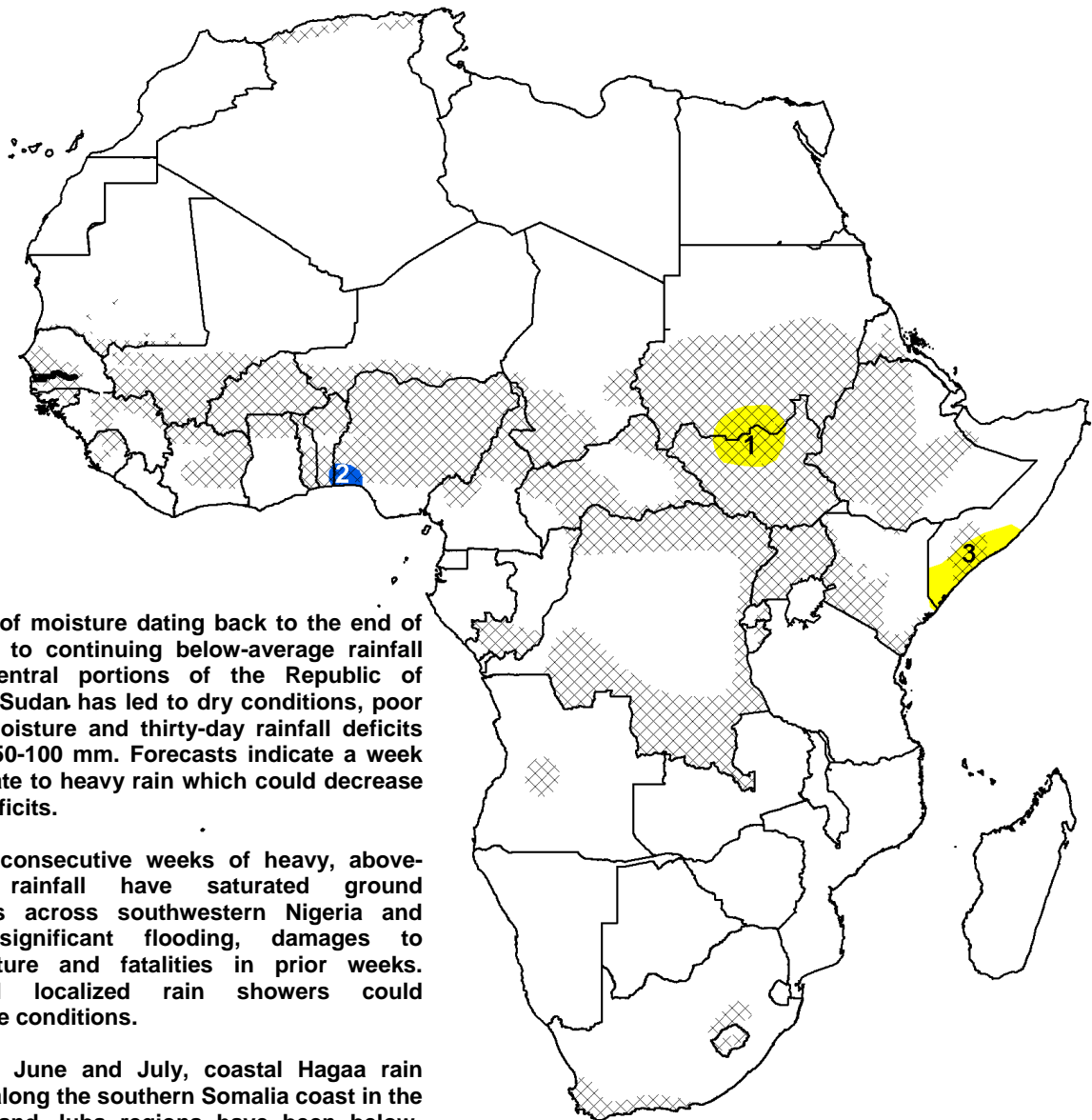


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 28 – August 3, 2011

- Moderate rainfall is observed across much of southern Niger, northern Nigeria and western Mali.
- Moderate to heavy rain was recorded across Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan decreasing rainfall deficits.

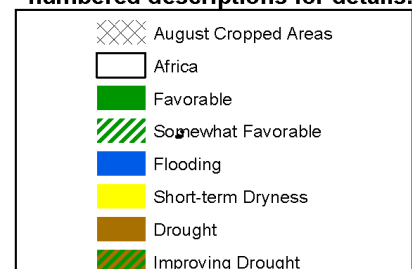


1) A lack of moisture dating back to the end of June due to continuing below-average rainfall across central portions of the Republic of Southern Sudan has led to dry conditions, poor ground moisture and thirty-day rainfall deficits between 50-100 mm. Forecasts indicate a week of moderate to heavy rain which could decrease rainfall deficits.

2) Three consecutive weeks of heavy, above-average rainfall have saturated ground conditions across southwestern Nigeria and caused significant flooding, damages to infrastructure and fatalities in prior weeks. Additional localized rain showers could exacerbate conditions.

3) During June and July, coastal Hagaa rain showers along the southern Somalia coast in the Shabelle and Juba regions have been below-average and erratic. The lack of coastal rains has negatively affected crops and cropping conditions in agro-pastoral areas leading to the drying out of some crops.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



## Rainfall is sluggish across much of West Africa.

During the past seven days, rainfall was moderate to heavy over much of West Africa. The heaviest rain (> 50 mm) was located in Burkina Faso, western Niger, coastal Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin. The abundant rain over southwestern Nigeria was the third consecutive week of above-average rain and provided little relief over areas which had flooded previously. Elsewhere, rainfall was below-average across Senegal, Guinea, Mali, northern Nigeria and central Niger. The light to moderate rain (5-40 mm) that was observed across Senegal, Mali, central Niger and northern Nigeria was 10-50 mm below-average. The lack of rain over Senegal is indicative of a delayed start to rains in the area. The largest departure from average (25-50 mm below-average) was over western parts of Mali and northern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). However, the recent moderate to heavy rains over Niger and Mali have helped improve ground moisture and cropping conditions reducing concerns about dryness. Climatologically, though, seasonal rainfall totals associated with the northward progression of the Intertropical Front should be higher than observed so far across Niger and Mali.

During the second dekad of July, rainfall was limited across Niger and northern Nigeria. In an analysis of moisture conditions across West Africa, much of Niger and northern Nigeria have Moisture Index values less than 20%. Recent rains during the third dekad of July have likely improved moisture conditions in these areas. Moisture index values indicate adequate moisture in Mali and Nigeria even though rainfall deficits are moderate across Nigeria and rainfall has been erratic over Mali (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, abundant rain (> 40 mm) is expected across southern Niger, northern Nigeria, Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso. The heavy rain should help improve dry conditions in Niger. Light to moderate rain (5-30 mm) is forecast further south along the Gulf of Guinea. Localized heavy rain showers across southern Nigeria could worsen the flooding situation.

## Rainfall increases across much of Sudan.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rainfall (> 20 mm) was prevalent across much of Sudan with an increase in rains (> 50 mm total rainfall) over dry portions of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. Rains were also heavy (> 50 mm) across the Tigray, Amhara, and western Oromiya departments of Ethiopia. Over the past thirty days, moderate to strong rainfall deficits (25-100 mm) have developed over Sudan/Republic of South Sudan and northern Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). However, rains in northwestern portions of Ethiopia have still been abundant (> 150 mm total rainfall) while rains in portions of Sudan/Republic of South Sudan (50-100 mm total rainfall) have been more suppressed. If the below-average rains continue, crops will begin to be negatively affected. Further south, after southern Somalia observed light to moderate Hagaa rains the previous week, the area received little to no rain during the past week continuing dry conditions. Agro-pastoral areas in the Shabelle and Juba regions of Somalia have been negatively impacted. For the next week, heavy rain (> 50 mm) is forecast across western Ethiopia and western Sudan while moderate rain (10-40 mm) is expected across central Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. Light showers could also occur over portions of southern Somalia.

**Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.**

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